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Albrecht/Solat, [ ] ofc

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1330, Tues. 2 Oct 73

Re: Reply to PFIAB/COINS ltr to DCI of 25 Sept. and appearance by [ ] and Colby at PFIAB

JM: [ ] The kinds of things [ ] and Colby might say at PFIAB.  
 Colby there 0930 Friday; Hall apparently earlier, on Thurs.

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Alb: [ ] wants to be prepared with a few back up notes and comments.

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JM: We do not want to look negative toward the last PFIAB mtr, but otherwise say as little as possible.

I think Colby's views are:

- If we can do something to COINS that costs only man hours, re its organ. and mgmt, let's do it. This relates to the substance and quality of files, making them better. Some things shld be done by the Exec. Agt; some shouldn't. We agree files need ...
- Re future architecture, Colby is open-minded but not committed. He is not sure that there is a future for a very elaborate COINS. Yes, upgrade should exist; how much more is not clear.
- To improve his confidence in his own understanding of the concept of COINS, i.e., a large system, he is going to pick some one from CIA and ask for a mini-assessment; he wants 2-3 people, including one from [ ] and maybe NCF. To get immediate understanding of what is the state of the art, what should you expect to do. Colby wants to start reasonably soon: to improve his confidence in his own understanding.

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JM: I will be giving Colby a paper that will be fleshed out some re the future concept. He will say something about his scepticism or open-mindedness re the future of a bigger system. And about setting about to find out how he should think for the future.

Briggs: I see emerging a different concept of COINS II. Rather than being an info retrieval system for analysts, it's being seen (by the draft ASD(I) paper) as a network. I like looking at this, including IDHS and WMCCS. This may be what the COINS name comes to mean. Sensible to have DOD in a major, up front role in DCA concept. This needs to be talked about, more.

Re files themselves and impact on ..., its tougher.

My motivation is positive. We're seeing more people internally. I want to grind into the interactive network the range of need for on-time. (What's he is alluding to is the CIA mode of having a librarian or technician as terminal operator, who knows all the file languages, and works the analyst's query for him.)

If we could start thinking that sometimes it makes sense to give a user training, but other times a trained librarian is a better intermediary.

Alb: We eventually should get ~~xxxx~~ together to make sure we know ...

JM: Colbe has told me to operate USIB committees. The capability exists to use them. Where they have the capability to be useful and exist all I have to do is to write them. Where a structure exists, we should use it. E.G., ~~CMAC~~ should format any AE files on COINS.

JN: I'd like to see IDHS get so good that it takes over COINS and then CIA comes to ask if they can play.

Solat: IDHS is floundering for lack of mgt.

Alb: Hope for a CIA host in 75.

Briggs: Its not in CIA FY 75 budget that went to OMB today. It might be gotten in.

JM: ~~xxxx~~ Our reply to PFIAB will only say something about the quality of files and the other two points I made previously.

I'd like to give you a report a hard reading and I'll suggest changes. There may be utility in our all having a basic document. (Genl agmt and vague commitment to all help edit.)

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[ ] are the PFIAB consultants since 65; they were on Knox pa

COINS 500 k in FY 73. [redacted] who said that OMB wld  
have to buy the case to recover this amt from CIA reserve. That also takes  
OK by congressional committee. Don't want to try it.

I said re DCI responsibility for COINS:

1. DCI has \$ control via IRAC.
2. Sources and methods respy.
3. Substantive production respy.

25X1 [redacted] thinks Baker doesn't like [redacted] as Exec Agt. 25X

25X1 If COINS itself is not centralized, leave the flexibility re how to  
budget, thinks [redacted] It could be centralized but may not be necessary.

25X1 [redacted] thinks re COINS that system on-line interface is not needed  
in all cases. CIA uses intermediary technician to query ~~for~~ for analysts.  
Also, manufacturers make this beyond our ability to control.

25X1 [redacted] on COINS A NCF  
(Early Oct 73)